

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEL AV 09786 041357Z

51

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 AF-10 EUR-25 ACDA-19 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 EB-11 COME-00

INT-08 SCEM-02 SCI-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CCO-00 SSO-00

DRC-01 /187 W

----- 024698

R 041159Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0761

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 9786

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, IS, EG

SUBJ: ONE ISRAELI RATIONALE FOR RETENTION OF SHARM EL-SHEIKH

1. IT WAS NOT CLEAR WHETHER IDEA WAS PURELY HIS OWN WHEN COMMENTATOR ESHED WROTE IN DAVAR NOV 12 THAT ONCE SUEZ CANAL IS REOPENED, ISRAELI FOOTHOLD AT SHARM EL SHEIKH WILL BE MORE IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT WOULD FACILITATE ISRAELI BLOCKADE OF GULF OF SUEZ IN RETALIATION AGAINST ANY FUTURE ARAB BLOCKADE OF BAB EL MANDEB (TEL AVIV 9186).

2. FIRST CLEAR SIGN THAT ESHED HAD NOT HIMSELF FASHIONED THIS CONCEPT CAME IN HAARETZ PIECE BY MARGALIT NOV 29, WHERE MARGALIT REPEATED IDEA. MARGALIT SPELLED OUT THAT MILITARY BASE RATHER THAN SMALL CIVILAN TOWN AT SHARM WOULD PROBABLY BE PREFERABLE, AS IT WOULD GIVE ISRAEL DEVICE FOR BARGAINING WITH MARITIME POWERS REGULARLY USING SUEZ CANAL IN FUTURE TO OBTAIN

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TEL AV 09786 041357Z

THEIR PRESSURE ON EGYPT TO PREVENT ANY FUTURE BLOCKADE OF

BAB EL MANDEB. MARGALIT ALSO NOTED THAT DAYAN IN NOV23 STATEMENT HAD CALLED FOR CONTINUED ISRAELI PRESENCE AT SHARM EL SHEIKH AND THUS SEEMED TO IMPLY THAT DAYAN SHARED THIS RATIONALE. MARGALIT MAY WELL BE RIGHT: DAYAN'S WORDS NOV 23 WERE, "FIRST, WE CANNOT BE AT BAB EL MANDEB AND SECONDLY, IF OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ARABS IS TO BE BASED ON BLOCKADES, THE MOST CERTAINLY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO BUDGE FROM SHARM EL SHEIKH" (TEL AVIV 9685).

3. CONCEPT AS OF THIS MOMENT OF ISRAELI BLOCKADE OF GULF OF SUEZ MAY NOT BE PURELY THEORETICAL, JUDGING FROM WHAT RETIRED GENERAL HAIM HERZOG IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID YESTERDAY TO GROUP OF VISITORS FROM CANADA. ACCOUNTS IN SEVERAL PAPERS THIS MORNING CLAIM HERZOG SAID THAT (A) ISRAELI IS CAPABLE OF MOUNTING, AND IN FACT IS CURRENTLY CONDUCTING, BLOCKADE OF GULF OF SUEZ, AND (B) EIGHT OUT OF THE TEN MILLION TONS OF OIL CONSUMED BY EGYPT ANNUALLY ARE TRANSPORTED THROUGH GULF OF SUEZ.
KEATING

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BOUNDARY DETERMINATION, DISPUTES, BOUNDARY CLAIMS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973TELAV09786
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731245/aaaabhch.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02-Jan-2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <16-Jan-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ONE ISRAELI RATIONALE FOR RETENTION OF SHARM EL-SHEIKH
TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, IS, EG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005